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FRED GALVAN

THE U.S., EASTERN EUROPE AND SELF-DETERMINATION

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES A CONTROVERSY TOUCHED OFF HERE AND ELSEWHERE OVER AMERICAN POLICY IN EASTERN EUROPE.

VOICE: EVER SINCE WOODROW WILSON FIRST ENUNCIATED THE AMERICAN BELIEF IN SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLE ALMOST SIXTY YEARS AGO, AMERICANS OF ALL PARTIES--PRESIDENTS, CONGRESSMEN AND PEOPLE--HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO THAT PRINCIPLE. THROUGH THE YEARS AMERICA'S ADVOCACY OF SELF-DETERMINATION HAS COME TO BE ACCEPTED AS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AS REFLECTED IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY.

SO IT IS TOTALLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT CONSTERNATION WOULD ARISE AMONG AMERICANS--ESPECIALLY THOSE OF EAST EUROPEAN ORIGIN--WHEN A HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT AIDE, HELMUT SOONENFELDT, IS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID AT A DIPLOMATIC BRIEFING IN LONDON THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD FAVOR A PERMANENT "ORGANIC" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. THAT THE ALLEGED SONNENFELDT STATEMENT SHOULD HAVE HAD A SIMILAR IMPACT IN EASTERN EUROPE ITSELF IS EQUALLY UNDERSTANDABLE.

THUS IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER THIS WEEK TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO DISPEL FEARS OF ANY CHANGE IN AMERICA'S POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE. THE PRESIDENT, IN WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS ISSUED MONDAY AND TUESDAY, CATEGORICALLY SAID THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE FOR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE-- AND THAT INCLUDES THE EASTERN EUROPEANS.

MOREOVER, THE U.S. IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE BY ANY NATION IN ANY AREA OF THE WORLD.

AND IN TESTIMONY BEFORE A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE MONDAY SECRETARY KISSINGER REAFFIRMED THAT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE. IN A DETAILED ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM A CONGRESSMAN, DOCTOR KISSINGER ALSO SAID: "AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WHAT SONNENFELDT WAS TRYING TO SAY...WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE NOW IS UNNATURAL IN THE SENSE" OF MOSCOW'S DOMINATION IN THAT AREA. DOCTOR KISSINGER NOTED THAT MISTER SONNENFELDT URGED A CHANGE IN THAT RELATIONSHIP IN FAVOR OF ONE HE CALLED AN "ORGANIC UNION." DOCTOR KISSINGER CALLED THIS PHRASE UNFORTUNATE. HE SAID MISTER SONNENFELDT WAS URGING AN EVOLUTION OF POLICY, AIDED BY THE UNITED STATES, THAT WOULD RETURN THE SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS EAST EUROPEAN NEIGHBORS TO A MORE NORMAL, LESS DOMINANT POSITION.

IN LINE WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY, DOCTOR KISSINGER SAID: " THE U.S. WELCOMES EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DEVELOPING MORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR NATIONAL TRADITIONS AND WE WILL COOPERATE WITH THEM." AND IN A LETTER TO SENATOR BUCKLEY WHO CRITICIZED WHAT HE TERMED " THE SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE," DOCTOR KISSINGER MADE THESE POINTS: "OUR POLICY IN NO SENSE ACCEPTS SOVIET 'DOMINION' OF EASTERN EUROPE" AND ON THE CONTRARY, "WE SEEK TO BE RESPONSIVE TO, AND TO ENCOURAGE AS RESPONSIBILY AS POSSIBLE, THE DESIRES OF MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD." THE AMERICAN AIM, DOCTOR KISSINGER SAID, SEEKS A GREATER SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF EASTERN EUROPE'S AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE.

AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TOTAL AMERICAN REJECTION OF DOMINANCE BY ANY ONE COUNTRY IN THAT AREA OVER ANY OTHER, DOCTOR KISSINGER

CITED WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID: " WE WOULD EMPHATICALLY CONSIDER IT A VERY GRAVE MATTER IF OUTSIDE FORCES WERE TO ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF YUGOSLAVIA."

IN SUM, WHAT COMES THROUGH IN ALL THIS IS THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION AND SELF-DETERMINATION. FOR AMERICA IS COMMITTED TO BOTH PRINCIPLES NOT JUST IN THEORY, BUT BY ITS ADHERENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS.

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